

the ravages of Hurricane Charley in Charlotte County.

On behalf of Florida's 16th Congressional District, I wish the Neil Armstrong Elementary School community our congratulations and our best wishes for a long and successful future in their new home.

CONGRATULATING MR. RON LEVY

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ron Levy, an exceptional leader from my district in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1999, Ron has served as President and CEO of SSM Health Care-St. Louis. Prior to that, Ron served with SSM Health Care for 30 years, beginning as a resident at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin in 1976. During his tenure, Ron has served in various capacities at SSM which have included: President of St. Clare Hospital and Health Services in Baraboo, Wisconsin; President of SSM St. Mary's Health Center in Richmond Heights, Missouri, and President of SSM Physicians Organization in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ron's leadership over the years has been invaluable not only to the SSM health care system, but to the community as a whole. In 2005, Ron served as chair of the Missouri Hospital Association. Ron has served as a member of the St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and since its inception has worked tirelessly to ensure access and coverage for healthcare services for the medically uninsured and underinsured in the greater St. Louis region.

I am pleased to be able to honor Ron Levy today. He is a shining example of the great leadership we have in Missouri and I know all of my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best as he begins the next chapter in his life and career.

RESTORE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Resolution 746, providing for consideration of H.R. 3773, the RESTORE Act of 2007. While I support many of the provisions of the underlying bill, I remain concerned that this bill is silent on the issue of carrier liability.

This rule provides no opportunity to amend the bill to address this important issue. In my view that is a mistake, and one which I hope will be dealt with before the legislation is sent to the President for his signature.

The failure of this House to address the issue of carrier liability may have significant long term implications for our future ability to protect our citizens. I encourage my colleagues to consider the incentives the legislation creates and find a constructive way to deal with the carrier liability issue.

Therefore, while I do intend to support the underlying legislation when faced with an up

or down decision later today, I oppose this closed rule, and urge the leadership of both Houses of Congress to work together during the conference process to address this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this closed rule.

HONORING T.J. LEE ELEMENTARY AND IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to T.J. Lee Elementary and the Irving Independent School District Food Service Department upon receiving the first coveted United States Department of Agriculture Gold School award in the state of Texas.

This honor was bestowed on Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service because of their strong commitment to the nutritional and physical well being of their students. Before an elementary school is granted this prestigious award, a stringent HealthierUS School challenge criteria must be met. Providing USDA nutrition standard school lunches, nutrition education to students, regularly scheduled physical activity and other lunch menu criteria are just a few of the measures required to obtain this recognition.

Fighting obesity in school children in the United States is of utmost importance. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Service Department are to be commended for their commitment in improving the health and well being of their students. The leadership they have shown helping students learn healthy eating habits and maintain an active lifestyle is an example to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor T.J. Lee Elementary and IISD Food Department for earning the United States Department of Agriculture Gold Award.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE "BLACKIE" EVANS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Claude "Blackie" Evans, who passed away on September 28, 2007.

Claude "Blackie" Evans was born on November 11, 1935 in Joplin, Missouri. He moved to Nevada with his wife in 1953. Initially, Blackie worked as a laborer and lathe operator at Titanium Metal Corporation. He then went on to work as a shop steward with the United Steelworkers of America #4856. There he was elected as the president of his local union and the youngest person to ever be elected to that position. After years of involvement and dedication, Blackie became the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada State AFL-CIO. He served as liaison to the National AFL-CIO, National Labor Relations Board, and 150 affiliated local unions. In 1998,

Blackie reached the pinnacle of his career serving as a member of the General Executive Board of the National AFL-CIO.

Over the years, Blackie was an integral part of our community. His commitment to his community extended beyond his experience with the AFL-CIO. He was a member of the State Mine Safety Advisory Board in 1969, and the State Job Training Board from 1979 to 1982. Additionally, he served on the state of Nevada's Vocation Education Training Board from 1980 to 1983, the State Industrial Insurance System Board of Directors from 1979 to 1993, and the Federal Solar Energy Education Board in 1994.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Blackie Evans. His dedication to his community should serve as an example to us all. I send my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. His passing is a tremendous loss to Nevada.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER DANNY PHILLIP DIETZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of a fallen hero and NAVY SEAL from my district, Petty Officer Danny Phillip Dietz of Littleton, Colorado. Petty Officer Dietz was killed two years ago during combat operations in Afghanistan.

On June 27, 2005, Petty Officer Dietz's four-man SEAL team was inserted into Afghanistan's remote Hindu Kush Mountains. His comrades included Petty Officer Matthew Gene Axelson of Cupertino, California, Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell of Huntsville, Texas, and Lieutenant Michael Murphy of Patchogue, New York. In the heavy fighting that followed the four men, experts not only in warfare but friends and members of a close-knit team, all faced the enemy opposition with inspiring valor and determination. Together they faced incredible odds, determined not only to do their duty but to give all that they had, each in the defense of the others. Ultimately overwhelmed, only Petty Officer Luttrell survived, and then with grievous wounds, to be rescued after several days of escape and evasion during which he continued to battle the enemy.

As Navy SEALs these four men exemplify the very best of America's young men and women, many of whom continue the battle on foreign shores or serve at home to protect our homeland. As valiant warriors they serve to inspire us in understanding not only the importance of Duty, Honor, Country, but also the importance of the unity of teamwork against all odds, regardless of our differences or where we are from.

Danny Dietz is not forgotten in his home town of Littleton, Colorado. This year on Independence Day, a large bronze statue was unveiled in Littleton's Berry Park to ensure that future generations will never forget his uncommon valor and selfless sacrifice. The citation awarding him the Navy Cross notes: "Demonstrating exceptional resolve and fully understanding the gravity of the situation and his responsibility to his teammates, Petty Officer Dietz fought valiantly against the numerically superior and positionally advantaged enemy